

A very full and particular Relation
of the great progresse and happy proceedings of
the Army of the Common-wealth of England
toward the reducing of Ireland, under the
Command of his Excellency the Lord
Lieutenant of Ireland.

Licensed by Gualter Frost Esquire, Secretary to the Councell
of state, according to the direction of the late Act.



WE should not have doubled the labour of the Presse, or the trouble of the reader in one weeke, (being resolved not to *seeke for meanes to wast paper, but to make use onely of opportunities for necessary information* of the people,) were it not that the impudency of the enemy no longer able to *maintaine their Tyranny by Armes*, endeavour to *keepe up their reputation by lyes*, seeking to impose upon the people a belief of things at distance, as if they had *some where a very powerfull party*, and that the warre is not ended, nor they overcome, the seat of it is onely transferr'd, and where the place of action is, there they are considerable. This they spread among the people here, to keepe them in a temper for any impression, and from closing cordially with their true Interest, who still too much believe them, notwithstanding they have had so many experiences of these impostures. There having scarce ever been any considerable Victory given to our party from the good hand of God, who hath wonderfully owned our cause, which hath not had for a Percurfor some Malignant report of our losse. Wee shall not now trouble the reader with what rare reports are come to us this weeke from France, Holland, and Scotland, of losse, routs, and totall defeats, of our Forces, running away of our chief Commanders, either to Sea, or to Dublin at best, where they will have them besieged. And that the good Catholique, and Scottish Presbyterian party have it all before them. This refuge of lyes the bayle shall sweep away. And for the satisfaction of such as desire to know the truth of these affaires, wee have published this Relation from the Letters of two worthy persons, who wrote what they saw, and to all either wise men or good men, they carry their evidence with them.

Wexford October 15th 1649.

So far God hath helped us ; and wee cannot yet percieve, that our wickednesse (though exceeding great) hath drawne back his good hand. In lesse then three moneths wee have redeemed the East parts of *Ireland* for the space of two hundred miles, from *Derry* to *Wexford*, out of the hands of the barbarous rebells. In the North of *Ireland* our Forces are about 5000 Horse and Foot, and by reason of the enmities of the *Scots*, and *Owen Roe Oneales* party, and some subdivisions also in the very Popish and Presbyterian parties, they doe not onely keepe the feild, but much annoy the enemy, especially the *Scot*. *Trevors* Horse are routed by Colonell *Venables*, and Colonell *Cbidley Coote*, about the *Nexry*, as they marched towards *Derry*, and the Lord of *Ards* his own strong House, with *Carrickfergus*, and the Castle of *Belfast* is since, as reports run here, taken in. So succelsfully has the lesser wing of our Army been spread Northward from *Dublin*, and the other wing Southwards has made as swift, and as prevalent a motion towards *Wexford*. The parts of *Ireland* about *Dublin* were too far wasted to beare our Army any considerable time, wherefore after my Lord had fortified them round with the Garrisons of *Dundalke*, *Droghedab*, *Trim*, *Menouth*, and the *Naz*, He soone put himselfe upon his march for *Wexford*. In the way he took, and Garrison'd *Killin Karest*, on this side *Wicklow*, and *Arche*, and little *Limerick*, on the South, and the judgement of God was remarkeable in this, that the *Irish* who for hatred had long since burnt our goodliest Houses, and Castles, now out of feare of us were inforced to burne their own. In our march from *Dublin* to *Wexford*, being in ill weather, and through ill wayes for above sixty miles, we mett not with an enemy that durst alarme us, or dispute one passe with us, but the strong Castle of *Arcloe*, *Ormonds* ancientest Barroony they fired, as likewise *Limerick* (a very stately and defensible House of *Esmonds*) before wee approached, though our time would not have permitted us to lay any siege against them. My cozin *Wallop* had a faire well built Castle at *Innis-corpben*, twelve miles distant from *Wexford*, which the enemy refused to render at first upon Summons, and the place was so exceeding knotty, that in that precious time wee durst not make any stay upon it : yet upon drawing downe one peice of Cannon, and making onely some colour of an assault, the Enemy gave it up, with good store of Armes, and Ammunition in it, conditioning onely for the Officers to march away with their swords. And herein appeared an extraordinary irresolution, or insatuation amongst the *Irish*, whilst they were neither stout enough to hold that which might incommodeate us, nor desperate enough to destroy that which might accomodate us in so great a measure.

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For our Fleet rid in sight without the barre, and received no mischief by the power of the windes; nay, the Fort at the mouth of the Bar ten miles from the Towne, which was by Art and nature very tenable, and stood most advantageously to lock up all that vast bosome of Sea, which secured the Towne on the East, was deserted by the Enemy, and left to us without any stroke at all. This shewed our Enemies to be voyd of all Councell, for neither had we Cannon to batter, nor provisions to subsist without our Navy, nor could our Navy force their passage by that Fort, and the two Frigots there riding, nor scarce any otherwise supply us.

The sudden gift therefore of such a Fort, and two such Frigots, at such a time was welcomed by us as the bounty of Heaven, and raised up our thoughts againe to their wonted pitch. Additionall to this grace also from above, newes came that two Regiments of *Inchiquines* had cast off their Officers, and possessed themselves of *Tongball* for the Parliaments use; and hereby *Inchiquin* was diverted, and by *Inchiquins* diversion *Ormond* was disabled, and *Clan Riccard* deterred from disturbing our Seige. The truth is, our Campe was without any intrenchment, almost drowned in rayne and dust, too obnoxious to the Enemies greater shot, and we knew the Irish about twelve miles of (for *Rosse* was their head Quarter) had vehement intentions to Camisadoe us; and we did not consist of above six thousand sound, effective men: Therefore the rumour of *Tongball* (and for ought we yet heare (though we six days agoe dispatcht away by Sea some Commissioners thereabout) the businesse of *Tongball* is more then a groundlesse rumour) did as much availe us, as if it had been true: Howsoever all things were ready now for a battery, and we having removed our Campe to the South end by the

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for more safety, and conveniencies sake, first playd with eight
pieces, and two Mortyr-peices upon the Castle, and finding the
batterable, courage began wonderfully to increase in us, and to
vaile in the besieged. The Towne within had two thousand able men,
most Marriners, and before our comming they had taken in from *Or-*
monds eight hundred Auxiliaries, and since our sitting downe, they had
receiv'd in twenty Colours more from the other shore (not be by us
impeached) and they had gabled all their streets, and had plenty of
Artillery, Armes, and all manner of Provisions; and till the tryall of
our Cannon, they appeared very daring, but now on a sudden, all spirit,
counsell, and manhood, caus'd fly forsook them.

The people within could not be restrained from boating away by
Water, this made the Magistrates seek a party, which granted, my Lord
proffered onely to the Souldier to depart home, renouncing bearing
Armes against the Parliament of *England* for the future, and for the
Towne, their persons were to be secur'd from violence, and their goods
from plunder.

This was accepted, and by my Lords hand signed; but before deli-
very, the Capaine of the Castle having some Trunks of value, belong-
ing to Sir *Ralph Aston*, it seemes out of hope to save the same, agrees
by himsele for his owne Souldiery, and immediatly receives in a Garri-
son of ours. The Towne therefore seeing their Commissioners not re-
turned, but our Flag advanced upon the Castle, and our Gunns (for
they were to play all the Treaty) traversed from the Castle and bent
against them, dispaired presently, and some of the Souldiers threw
themselves over the Wall amongst our Horse; but the greatest part made
escape by Water. This being seen by us made us fall on, and storme
with Ladders, and without resistance, or losse of a man the Towne was
entred, won, and sackt. The spoiling of the Towne was extreemly in-
commodious to our selves, and we all desired to reserve it for our Win-
ter accommodation, both parties were agreed about it, and the agree-
ment was drawne and signed, but God had otherwise determined up-
on it.

Indeed the Towne, though of old English extraction, and retaining
the old English Dialect still without Irish mixture, and such as had not
been very obstinate from the beginning from letting us in upon termes,
had not *Ormonds* Military Faction overrul'd; yet were guilty of much
Piracy, having been the receptacle of all the Princes roving Frigors for
diverse yeares past, and so we may conceive God had a further quarrell
with them then we had, and by him the issue was otherwise ordered,
then either we or the Irish had designed.

Upon

Upon entering the Towne, about men were put to the Sword, and about more drowned by overcharging Vessels in the flight, and great spoyle and havock was made of many rich commodities, so that now we are inforced to seek further for a Winter retirement, and want that refreshment which else the place might have afforded in the declining of the year; but for my part, I am strong in my confidence. that this is so directed by God for our good; and that though our Army be now very sick and impaired, and likely to be further weakened by access of Winter, and more gusty weather, yet God crosses us here, that we may onely be better provided for and entertained elsewhere. My Lord accordingly is now advancing to *Rosse*, the most invincible refuge and Rendezvouz of the Irish, and if the same felicity attend us herein, which hath hitherto been faithfull to us, this will be a strange criticall day betwixt us, especially when their greatest strength is to encounter with our greatest weaknes: All our disadvantage is, that we fight not with men armed with Steele, but with Walls lined with men; and that our Enemies doe not onely lye in Ambuscadoe behind Walls, but (as I may say) behind diseases, tempests, wants, and difficult ways; for nothing is more obvious to sense then this, that a Lyon-like heart is inspired into our men, whilst all that is Manlike is taken from our Enemy.

I cannot but beleive that the time is now come, or neare at hand, which the soules of the Saints have so long cryed out for from under the Altar, and that God is now rousing himselfe to returne unto *Babylon*, that which shee hath so cruelly inflicted for so many yeares upon us. And for the chiefe Instrument in this businesse chosen by God, I doubt not but he knows; he has in his hands the Arrows of Gods deliverance against *Assyria*; and therefore he will not smite the ground with them twice or thrice as the King of *Israel* did, but he will discharge six or seven times, till the Enemy be wholly consumed. I wish mens minds in *England* were better settled, and prepared for such dispensations of God; tis fearefull that such graces should be better accepted, and finde more gratitude in *Israel* then in *Judah*; but tis most fearefull, that the Clergy (upon I know not what principles of Prelacy in Classes and Generall Assemblies) should be more averse from acknowledging Gods wonderfull deliverances then the Laity.

Wexford, 16. of October, 1649.

Upon our returne to Dublin from Droghedah (where the Lord had blest us) I Writ to you some account what he had done for us, which I hope ere this time you have received. Since then we Marched from Dub-

lin higher. (being above Threescore Miles Southward upon the Sea Coast) wee were nine or ten dayes upon our March, and had five Garrisons of the Enemy either surrendered, or quitted, or left to us upon our March, so as we cleared all our way as we came, and settled small Garrisons for our selves at every ten or twelve Miles distance along the Sea Coast, we lay before this Citty eight dayes, and the ninth day which was the eleventh of this Month, God delivered it, and the strong Castle thereof into our hands, having got the Fort six Miles off, upon the mouth of the Haven; the next day after we came, the Enemy that kept it (their hearts being taken away) run out of the Fort upon the first appearance of our Men, and betook themselves to a Pyrat Frigot, belonging to this Town) which Road within the mouth of the Haven is within shot of the Fort) and our Men playing upon them but three or foure shoots with their owne Guns (which they left in the Fort) they presently sent a shoare and surrendered both themselves (Prisoners) and also the Frigot with sixteene or eighteene peices of Ordnance in her. This gave us opportunitie for our ships and Vessells, that attended us along the Coast from Dublin with Provisions, Ordnance, and Ammunition, to be brought into the Haven, and so up to the Campe near the Towne, where the Army lay, within Foure or Five dayes, so soone as the Winds and spring Tide served. But in this time our Men endured great extremity for want of bread, and other necessities, wee had a strong Enemy within the Towne, and Feild Army greater then ours hovering about us, (for most part within a dayes March) but keeping themselves upon the advantage, of Rivers, Hills, and Woods, and not having confidence to come out to fight us. On Wedensday last having made our approaches, and prepared our Batterys, we made two breaches into the Castle. They had upon our first Summons (when wee came before the Towne) seemed willing to Treat, and upon good termes to surrender. But making some trifling delayes for three or foure dayes, till they had got more strength into the Towne from the other side of the River (which we could not prevent) they then slightly broke off, and we heard no more from them, till we had made the breaches into the Castle, and then they sent out againe desiring to Treat. We received their Propositions (which conteyned large demands, concerning the free Tolerati-on of their Religion, and their Bishops, and Priests to injoy their Officer, power, and Revenues hereabouts, and the Townesmen their Liberties, and Estates free) We rejected their Propositions with disdain, and without Answer. But being desirous, if it had appeared the will of God, to save blood, and prevent the spoyling of so Rich a Towne, which

which we thought might be a place of receipt for many honest Families out of England, we offered them in short (if they would immediately surrender) to let the common Souldiers goe to their homes (upon engagement to serve no more against the Parliament, to give the Officers Quarter for life (but to be Prisoners) and to secure the Towne from Pillage, or Plunder of the Souldiers, but their estates to be at the States mercy to dispose of. But though thus wee (then not knowing otherwise of the mind of God towards them) were mercifully inclined, God shewed that he had a further controversy against such a Place, and People, who had inriched themselves with the spoyle of the Innocent (by Robbing and pillaging at Sea all English Merchants they could light on since the Warr began, and making a Trade of that Pyracie) and where (as we better understand since) there hath been so great cruelties exercised towards English Protestants, that were many in these Parts at the beginning of the Warre, and now none left but, either killed, or driven away.

And therefore God so ordered it, as to make them vomit up againe their stolne riches in one houre, and pay dearly for the innocent blood here spilt, for when we had set downe our aforesaid offer, and delivered it to their Commissioners to convey into the Towne, our men being ready to assault the breaches of the Castle; the Governour thereof for feare and hast accepted our termes for himselfe and his, and admitted our men into the Castle (and thereupon though it stood cleare without the Walls of the Towne) yet so soone as ever the Garrison within the Towne saw our Colours upon the Castle, they had not confidence to stand to their Armes, or maintaine their Walls so long as to receive their Commissioners back with our offer. When we (although wee would grant no Cessation of Armes for a minute yet) had no thoughts of attempting any more at that time then the Castle: But they ran away from their Walls (on that side that was towards the Castle, quitted their Guards, and betooke themselves towards their Boats (whereof they had abundance belonging to their Ships at their Keyes within the Haven) which many of our Souldiers from the Castle and some higher grounds perceiving, they fell ou of their owne accords, first without Ladders, lifting and helping one another with their Pikes or any other way over the Walls, and after with Ladders, till they were got in a good number into the Towne, and then (the Enemy made head and got heart againe, and attempting to have returned to their Guards and Walls) we soon beat and disperst them, and posselt the Towne (their Commissioners this while, not having hearts to put themselves into the Towne

